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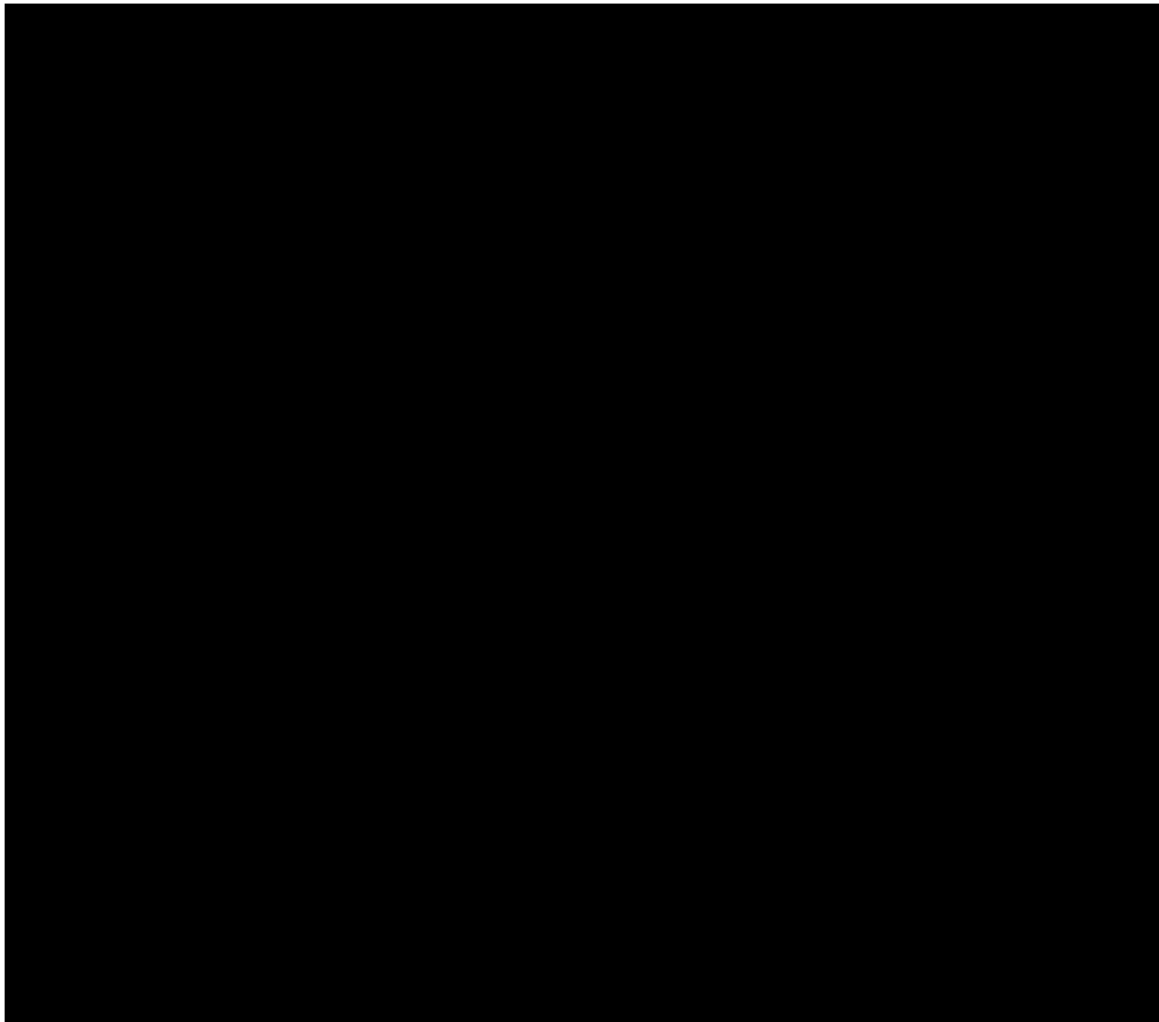
## SPOT COMMENTARY

CIA/DI

SPCOM-SR-91-668

17 March 1991  
2300 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #668



Prepared by:



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#### **Baghdad's Anti-Insurgent Propaganda**

Iraqi television and radio have featured numerous statements against the opposition and in support of Saddam over the past two days. Features about southern Iraq generally have stressed that the oppositionists are anti-Islamic criminals, aided by foreigners, who destroy public and private property and commit murders. The propaganda includes alleged interviews with students and citizens of Karbala. Features about the Kurdish north have focused on statements of support for Saddam by various Kurdish leaders, including the political bureau of the Kurdish Democratic Party and several Kurdish tribal leaders. Baghdad also aired statements by Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim and Interior Minister Ali Hasan al-Majid to officials in a northern province, stressing the "oneness" of the Iraqi people. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** Baghdad's propaganda probably is intended primarily to stir up Iraqi patriotism in the north and turn public opinion against Iranian intervention in the south. Saddam may also hope to counter foreign media accounts of the fighting. [REDACTED]

#### **Kuwait Attempting to Curb Abuses**

Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice officials have been posted to each police station in Kuwait City in an effort to curb abuse of government detainees, [REDACTED]. The government reportedly plans to issue the International Red Cross letters authorizing access for its representatives to detainees being held at the stations. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** These steps suggest the government is increasingly concerned about abuses by army and police units holding detainees. [REDACTED]

#### **Soviet Views on Gulf Security**

In reporting Secretary Baker's visit, TASS quoted Gorbachev as noting similar features in current US and Soviet approaches to the Persian Gulf. Foreign Ministry spokesman Churkin outlined the Soviets' six points for security in the region, which according to TASS assign local states a key role, avoiding the creation of bloc-type groupings. Churkin also said the foreign military presence in the region should be reduced to pre-August 1 levels and UN peacekeeping forces should guarantee the peace. The other points endorsed regional arms control, economic cooperation, and settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** Despite Gorbachev's comment, the six points probably form the basis of Moscow's alternatives to US proposals. The Soviets probably sent them to a number of Arab countries last week before Secretary Baker arrived in Moscow. The points show the Soviets still see some value in trying to replace the American military presence with a regional security entity under the UN, a move that would give Moscow a greater role. The Soviets probably will send an envoy to the Middle East to seek support for their ideas but will avoid portraying them as a Soviet initiative until they gauge Arab reaction. [REDACTED]

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